



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**News Release No. 1 – Aug. 12, 2015 – 2 p.m.**

## **STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER ACTIVATED**

Lansing, Mich. – Following a “state of disaster” declaration by Gov. Rick Snyder on Aug. 10, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated to coordinate requests for state assistance and assist in the management of recovery efforts in Grand Traverse County.

The SEOC was activated at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 11, and will remain activated until debris is removed and disposed throughout the county. Representatives from the departments of Corrections, Health and Human Services, Military and Veterans Affairs, Natural Resources, State Police, Technology Management and Budget, and Transportation are staffing the center.

“This week, we have met with local officials to create a comprehensive debris management plan to ensure Grand Traverse County recovers as quickly as possible,” said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and commander of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. “Tremendous work has already been done and I appreciate the hard work and long hours emergency responders and volunteers have worked since the storms struck.”

Throughout Grand Traverse County, there is an extraordinary amount of fallen tree debris. State resources, like personnel and heavy equipment, are being used to ensure a controlled and orderly removal and disposal of debris in partnership with local efforts.

### **About the Disaster**

Gov. Rick Snyder declared a “state of disaster” on Aug. 10 for Grand Traverse County after severe thunderstorms caused widespread and severe damage on Aug. 2, 2015. By declaring a “state of disaster,” the state of Michigan has made available all state resources in cooperation with local response and recovery efforts in the disaster area.

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*The SEOC is the emergency operations center for the state of Michigan. Located in Lansing, the SEOC is overseen by the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and coordinates response and recovery efforts by state agencies and local government. The SEOC is staffed by members of state agencies for decision making and information coordination during disasters or emergencies in the state of Michigan.*

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